General Assembly

File No. 913

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7103

House of Representatives, May 14, 2025

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE KATIE BECKETT WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-283 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 The Commissioner of Social Services shall, within available
4 appropriations, administer a Medicaid waiver program pursuant to
5 Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act to provide home and
6 community-based services for persons who are institutionalized or at
7 risk of institutionalization and who (1) are **[**twenty-one**]** eighteen years
8 of age or younger; (2) have a physical disability and may also have a co-
9 occurring developmental disability; and (3) meet the financial eligibility
10 criteria established in the waiver.

11 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of Social
12 Services shall create a brochure with information and eligibility criteria
13 for the Katie Beckett Waiver Program. Not later than September 1, 2025,

14 the department shall distribute the brochure to medical providers,
15 including, but not limited to, children's hospitals, geneticists, nurses and
16 social workers.

17 (b) The Department of Social Services, at least annually, shall provide
18 information on the Katie Beckett Waiver Program, including eligibility
19 criteria, in the department's bulletin to Medicaid-enrolled providers.

20 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social
21 Services shall develop a five-year plan to eliminate the waiting list for
22 the Katie Beckett Waiver Program and add home modification coverage
23 for waiver participants with disabilities through the program.

24 (b) Not later than October 1, 2025, the commissioner shall file a report,
25 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
26 on the plan with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
27 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets
28 of state agencies and human services. The report shall include
29 recommendations concerning state appropriations needed to
30 implement the plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2025*	17b-283
Sec. 2	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 3	*from passage*	New section

APP   Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 $	FY 27 $
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill changes the maximum age for individuals on the Katie Beckett waiver from 21 to 18 years of age. As participants on the waiver are eligible for Medicaid services under HUSKY C after turning age 18, this creates a shift in program costs. To the extent the shift to HUSKY C creates an opening for individuals to be served on the waiver from the wait list earlier than they otherwise would have, DSS will incur related costs. For context, the average state cost per client is approximately $25,500 annually.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7103

AN ACT CONCERNING THE KATIE BECKETT WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to (1) develop a five-year plan to eliminate the waiting list for the Katie Beckett Waiver Program and add home modification coverage as a service offered through the program and (2) report by October 1, 2025, to the Appropriations and Human Services committees on recommended state appropriations needed to implement the plan. The Katie Beckett program is a Medicaid waiver that allows children with severe physical disabilities to be eligible for Medicaid home- and community-based care. According to DSS, 331 people are currently on the waitlist.

The bill also lowers the maximum age for Katie Beckett participants from 21 to 18. (At age 18, people in this group become eligible for coverage under a different Medicaid program.)

Lastly, the bill requires the DSS commissioner to create a brochure with information on and eligibility criteria for the Katie Beckett program. Under the bill, she must distribute the brochure to medical providers by September 1, 2025, including children's hospitals, geneticists, nurses, and social workers. DSS must also include this information at least annually in the department's Medicaid-enrolled provider bulletin.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the change to the maximum participant age is effective July 1, 2025.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 467) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported out a substitute that eliminated provisions in the underlying bill that would have required DSS to establish a website for the Katie Beckett program with a portal that could provide initial eligibility screening and waitlist updates.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

    Joint Favorable
      Yea   22   Nay 0   (03/13/2025)

Appropriations Committee

    Joint Favorable Substitute
      Yea   50   Nay 0   (05/05/2025)